

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~striketrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (cancelled)

2. (cancelled)

3. (cancelled)

4. (cancelled)

5. (cancelled)

6. (cancelled)

7. (previously presented) An information comparison display apparatus for displaying results of comparison between a plurality of pieces of input information by using a plurality of colors, comprising:

an input information processing unit receiving the pieces of input information;

an information comparing unit comparing the pieces of input information based on a plurality of predetermined comparison criteria, and determining a plurality of characteristic elements to be assigned colors;

a color assigning unit assigning colors corresponding to a plurality of preset default values or colors defined by each user to the pieces of input information, based on the results of comparison;

a color-assigned information providing unit outputting the information, to which the colors have been assigned, to the outside;

a color changing unit changing a color defined by a user to another color in response to data entry by the user; and

an automatic color registering unit resetting a default value corresponding to the changed color, based on a history of color changes performed by said color changing unit.

8. (cancelled)

9. (previously presented) An information comparison display apparatus for displaying results of comparison between a plurality of pieces of input information by using a plurality of colors, comprising:

an input information processing unit receiving the pieces of input information;

an information comparing unit comparing the pieces of input information based on a plurality of predetermined comparison criteria, and determining a plurality of characteristic elements to be assigned colors;

a color assigning unit assigning colors corresponding to a plurality of preset default values or colors defined by each user to the pieces of input information, based on the results of comparison; and

a color-assigned information providing unit outputting the information, to which the colors have been assigned, to the outside, and

wherein the pieces of input information are a series of related information, and

wherein said color assigning unit assigns the colors to the series of related information, according to an amount of change in attributes of the series of related information, including change of a display position of an element of the series of related information, based on the results of comparison between the series of related information.

10. (previously presented) An information comparison display apparatus for displaying results of comparison between a plurality of pieces of input information by using a plurality of colors, comprising:

an input information processing unit receiving the pieces of input information;

an information comparing unit comparing the pieces of input information based on a plurality of predetermined comparison criteria, and determining a plurality of characteristic elements to be assigned colors;

a color assigning unit assigning colors corresponding to a plurality of preset default values or colors defined by each user to the pieces of input information, based on the results of comparison;

a color-assigned information providing unit outputting the information, to which the colors have been assigned, to the outside; and

a color-assignment data arranging unit selecting a new color, or thinning out the preset default values or data of the colors defined by each user when the number of the colors corresponding to the preset default values or the colors defined by each user does not agree with the number of colors required to display the results of comparison so that these numbers agree.

11. (cancelled)

12. (cancelled)

13. (cancelled)

14. (cancelled)

15. (cancelled)

16. (previously presented) An information comparison display method, comprising:
allowing a user to designate an analysis relationship for target character strings in an input source;

analyzing the input source for the target character strings responsive to the relationship;
and

displaying the input source to the user with the target character strings having the relationship displayed with colors assigned responsive to the degree of the relationship.

17. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 16, wherein the relationship is a frequency of occurrence.

18. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 16, wherein the relationship is a common occurrence in plural input sources.

19. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 16, wherein the relationship is change of position of the strings within the input source.

20. (previously presented) A method as recited in claim 16, wherein the relationship is a designation of one or more character strings by the user.